

RHEA HEARING WILL BE BITTER

Much Partisan Feeling Develops,
and Many Witnesses Are
Called.

Charged with the task of summoning a large number of witnesses for both sides in the Noel-Rhea matter, which will have its first public hearing before the Joint Committee on Confirmation on Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Sergeant-at-Arms Frank B. Watkins, of the Senate, left for Southwest Virginia last night armed with subpoenas, which he will serve as speedily as possible.

Judge Rhea has gone to his home in Bristol, but will return here in a few days. He was accompanied by his friend, Mr. A. H. Campbell, of Wythe, who will appear for him as attorney in the proceedings.

New Witnesses.
Both Judge Rhea and Senator Noel augmented the list of witnesses yesterday, furnishing the names to Captain Thomas L. West, of Bedford, who is chairman of the joint committee. The additional list of Senator Noel follows: J. A. Stone, Bristol; M. C. Clark, Hanover; J. S. Ashworth, Bristol; Judge M. B. Wood, Bristol; W. L. Dennis, Grundy; L. P. Summers, Abingdon; Massey Slack, Bristol; G. E. Goodell, Bristol; J. F. Bullett, Big Stone Gap; C. C. Carlow, Coeburn, and R. G. Watkins, Grundy.

Judge Rhea's original list is as follows: R. Tate Irvine, Big Stone Gap; Judge John W. Price, Bristol; H. G. Peters, Bristol; Joseph L. Kelley, Bristol; James McGill, Pulaski; B. F. Buchanan, Marion.

Captain West yesterday afternoon received a telegram from Judge Rhea asking that the following additional witnesses be summoned: John B. Keller, R. G. Gauthier and G. W. Hammons, all of Bristol.

Much Partisan Feeling.
It need hardly be said that a good deal of partisan feeling is being displayed; for all those who visit the Capitol at all frequently know that this is true.

Democrats as a rule do not hesitate to assert that Senator Noel called witnesses to make any direct or indirect charges against Judge Rhea, and many of them contend that it is all a political grandstand play. In connection with this view of the matter it may be stated that the Senator from Lee, when he offered his resolution, did not expect that things would take their present turn. He and his colleagues were of opinion, according to reliable information on the subject, that the joint assembly would hear the vague and indefinite charges against Judge Rhea and would disregard them and proceed at once to confirm the nomination without further inquiry.

This course would have furnished good campaign material, but the Democratic Assembly broke away from Judge Mann and Judge Williams and demanded the fullest possible investigation. It has, perhaps, been noted that when Senator Noel was required to put his charges in writing and submit them to the joint committee, they were much more vague and indefinite than those contained in his speech before the joint assembly.

Want Them Sworn.
Delegate Featherston, of Campbell, and other Democrats, who are of the opinion that the Senator from Lee or any other person making charges against Judge Rhea should be required to submit them as sworn statements, and that unless this course is pursued the committee should disregard them. On the other hand, however, Judge Rhea and his friends now insist upon a thorough investigation, and the appointment of the Governor declares that unless the Legislature goes fully into the matter he will not accept the place.

A large number of prominent public men are in the city, though it is not known that the Rhea matter has brought them here. Senator Martin is among the number, and he is known to be a warm friend and ardent admirer of the Bristol man.

Sergeant-at-Arms Watkins left the city last night, armed with all the power necessary in order to secure the attendance of witnesses. Here is a copy of the subpoena furnished him for service on the various witnesses: **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA:** To the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Joint Committee for Confirmation of the Senate and House of Delegates of Virginia:

You are hereby commanded to summon to appear before the joint committee for Confirmation, meeting at the Capitol, in the city of Richmond, on the — day of — 1908, or as near thereafter as possible, to testify in an investigation concerning the nomination of Judge William F. Rhea to the position of State Corporation Commissioner of Virginia, and his you shall in no wise omit under a penalty of fine.

Given under my hand as clerk of

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We have always maintained the highest standard in the quality of our cocoa and chocolate preparations and we sell them at the lowest price for which unadulterated articles can be put upon the market.

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Regiments of splendid values have received peremptory marching orders on account of the backward season.

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\$25 Overcoats, \$14.75.
\$3 Flannel Pajamas, \$1.95.
\$5 Children's Suits, \$2.95.

Jacobs & Levy

\$6 and \$7 Trousers, \$4.95.

Joint Committee for Confirmation this, the — day of — 1908.

M. B. BOOKER, Clerk.
A great deal of bitterness is expected to develop before the hearing is over, and though personal clashes will probably be averted, the sessions of the joint committee will at least be splintered enough to claim widespread public interest.

POPULAR CRY NO LONGER SWAYS LOWER HOUSE

(Continued from First Page.)

When the result was announced there was applause and some indications of quiet indignation.

When the viva voce vote was taken upon the motion to reconsider, there was a good volume of ayes, but the chorus of noes gave the impression that more of the members were willing the bill should stay dead than had been anxious to kill it by their votes.

Little Other Business.
It may be readily understood that little other business was accomplished in the House.

In the Senate the bill to appropriate \$125,000 annually to the sinking fund for the extinguishment of the public debt, was passed.

There was a long discussion over the bill to require jail-birds to work on the public roads, and it was finally amended. The McCormick exhibit at Jamestown, which has been donated to the State, was accepted with thanks.

The House devoted almost its entire session to a debate on the bill providing for the election of Corporation Commissioners by the people, and the result was the defeat of the measure by a vote of 42 to 44.

The attendance of members and visitors to the Virginia capitol with this session, but up to the present writing none has been received from the Virginia delegation to the Legislature.

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Rhea Investigation.
A message from the Senate, delivered by Judge Mann, communicated the resolution declining the method of investigating the Rhea charges, and the House concurred in it unanimously.

Mr. Houston presented a lengthy petition from citizens in Hampton and Elizabeth City county relating to the sale of liquor. It was referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Connelley was the first member to oppose Senate bill No. 20, providing for the election of Corporation Commissioners by the people, and Mr. Brewer moved to amend so as to make it ineffective until 1913.

Messrs. West, of Bedford; Pendleton, of Scott, and Williams, of Southampton, spoke in favor of the bill, and also Mr. Rew, of Accomac, Messrs. Lewis, of Essex, and Massey, of Richmond city, opposed the measure, contending that the present method of selection is safest and best.

Colonel Massey spoke at considerable length, and in closing declared that he had been unable to discover any demand for the proposed change. Unless some good reason could be shown he asserted that he would vote to maintain the present system, and would refuse to be frightened by the talk about "digging political graves," etc.

Mr. Page Opposed.
Mr. Page, of Hanover, opposed the bill, and declared that it would bring the judiciary into politics.

"I shall vote," he declared, "for the election of commissioners of the revenue by the people, but to help me God, I shall never vote to elect the judiciary of this State by popular vote."

Mr. Page asked if this was a move to disturb the Governor, and whether the unfortunate case about to be investigated was to be invoked in favor of the bill. Mr. Montague advocated the measure in a brief speech, and it was then opposed by Mr. Withers, of Nansemond. Mr. Oliver spoke for the bill, and declared that he had promised his people in his campaign to advocate the change. The member from Fairfax took occasion to say in the course of his remarks that in a recent contest for Governor one of the unsuccessful candidates had spent something like \$10,000, and that he was, according to talk placed upon the Corporation Commission to pay a political debt.

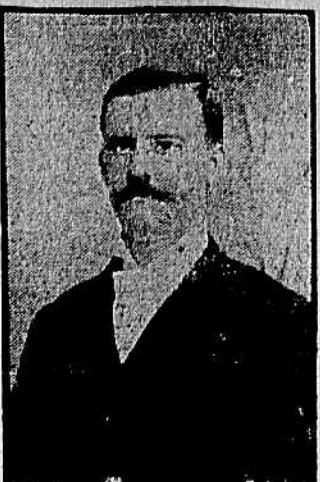
Judge Martin Williams, of Giles, opposed the bill in a brief but vigorous speech. In answer to a question concerning the election of judges by the people, he declared that he could sit

Bitter Fight for Judgeship



WALLER R. STAPLES.

The bitterest local contest waged before the Legislature of Virginia in many years is that over the judgeship of the Corporation Court of the city of Roanoke, vacated by Judge John W. Woods, who declines to stand for re-election. The candidates are Messrs. Roy B. Smith and Waller R. Staples, both strong lawyers and men of decided popularity. The situation secures additional interest from the fact that the bar appears hopelessly divided, each side claiming a majority, and from the further fact that Senator Hart is supporting one candidate and Delegate Hunt the other. Senator Hart is leading the Smith forces, and Mr. Hunt is advocating the cause of Mr. Staples. Mr. Smith is the older of the two candidates, and has been a prominent figure at the Roanoke bar for many years. Mr. Staples is a young



ROY B. SMITH.

man, who is said to possess exceptional ability as a lawyer, and is a nephew of the late Judge Waller Staples of Montgomery, who was one of the most brilliant legal lights of his time. Both men have strong forces at work for them, and the Legislature has perhaps been more thoroughly canvassed on this than any other pending question. Senator Hart did not reach the city until this week, having been detained at his home by illness, but since his coming he has been actively at work for his friend.

An unfortunate misunderstanding between Senator Hart and Delegate Hunt on Thursday night over this contest came near resulting in a physical encounter, but friends intervened and the matter has now been happily adjusted, and the two members are still personal friends.

Here and There in the Legislature

DEMOCRATIC Senators and delegates, representing the Fifth, Sixth, Ninth and Tenth Congressional Districts, have come to an understanding as to the proposed rearrangement of the congressional districts of the State, and it is understood that a compromise bill will be offered, making only one change. This will be to take Floyd out of the Fifth District, and place it in the Sixth, a move understood to be highly disappointing to the Republicans of the two houses, who desired that if the Fifth should be retained, it should be a Republican burden, the Sixth should be loaded down with certain Southwest counties in order to make it doubtful if not Republican.

Delegate Chittwood, who represents Congressman Saunders's county in the House, has all along stated that he did not wish to embarrass any other district, and that his only desire was to help the Fifth and make it safely Democratic.

Judge Saunders and Congressman Glass have both been here recently, and they probably talked the situation over with their friends in the Legislature. They are both former members of the Legislature, and are popular with their representatives and former colleagues.

The bill offered by Mr. Spessard, of Craig, proposed sweeping changes, but this is now practically out of the window, and put it in the Tenth; to take Kallfax out of the Sixth and put it in the Fifth, and to take Giles, Pulaski, Bland and Wythe out of the Ninth and put them in the Sixth. This bill would have left the Ninth District Republican, and would have put the Sixth in the same class.

COMPANION bills have been introduced in the House by Mr. Campbell, county, seeking to broaden and render efficacious the concealed weapons laws of the State.

One of the bills increases the penalty for carrying concealed weapons to not less than \$40 nor more than \$300, with a concurrent jail sentence of not exceeding six months, in the discretion of the court or jury trying the case. The other makes it unlawful to sell a pistol to any person not authorized by law, or by proper order of the court, to carry concealed weapons, and provides the same penalty as in cases of carrying concealed weapons. In event of conviction under

on his front porch and look into a circuit in another State, where the judge was chosen by a combination of coal mine owners and other corporations. He said that it was understood that in a county in an adjoining State one man of the dominant party not only dictated the county officers, but the judiciary as well, and that such a condition of affairs was dangerous to the rights of the people.

Upon roll call the bill was defeated by a vote of 42 yeas, 44 noes as recorded above.

SENATE
One of the most surprising features of the Senate yesterday was the passage without debate of the bill appropriating \$125,000 annually to the sinking fund. It was thought that this bill would provoke a warm discussion, and when it was passed with only nine

votes to the contrary, there was general surprise on the floor.

Senate bill No. 26, which was up for its second reading, caused a prolonged debate. Senator Ward offering an amendment that gave counties and towns the privilege of working persons in their jails, and prohibiting the working of prisoners confined for non-payment of fines on the roads. Senator Lassiter introduced a substitute for Mr. Ward's amendment, requiring any person sentenced to jail over thirty days to work on the public roads of the State. Argument of the subject consumed nearly the entire session of the Senate. Senator Lassiter called for a recorded vote, saying that if the Senate wished to kill the bill by loading it down with amendments he would amend the people know what day.

On motion, Mr. Ward's amendment was adopted.

Gift Accepted.
Governor Swanson presented a communication, saying that the McCormick family had presented to the State the historic exhibit of the McCormick Binding Company, which was exhibited at the Jamestown Exposition.

Senator Sale urged that the gift be accepted, with proper acknowledgments by the State, and asked leave to draft resolutions thanking the McCormick family, whose father, the inventor, was a native of Virginia.

The House presented a resolution requesting the members of the Virginia delegation in the national Congress to vote for the Tillman bill prohibiting the delivery of whiskey in prohibition counties. The Senate concurred in it unanimously.

The first petitions were introduced in the Senate yesterday, and all had to do with the temperance question, asking the Legislature to make cities and counties a unit in local option elections, and to prohibit the sale of whiskey in said towns unless by a majority of the voters of both city and town.

Many bills were introduced. Most of them were of a local character, and only affected the communities represented by the patrons.

The galleries for the past two or three days have been crowded with visitors, who manifest much interest in the proceedings.

NO TRACE OF JAILBIRDS
Negroes Who Escaped From Henrico Thursday Evening Still at Large.

Concerning the whereabouts of the three negroes, William Freeman, George Jackson and Thomas Shands, who so mysteriously disappeared from the Henrico jail on Thursday night, nothing has been heard, although all the county officers are working on the case, and the city police are keeping a sharp look out for the fugitives. Special detectives of the various railroads have also been notified of the delivery.

Treman, who is charged with burning a barn in Gloucester county, is the most wanted of the three, and Sheriff Kemp as soon as he heard the news offered a reward of \$50 for the capture of this man. His wife lives in the county, and it is certain that she will try to communicate with her husband as possible.

The other two men were held on misdemeanor charges, and are not considered dangerous.

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WANT CHARTER TO WASHINGTON

Mr. Anderson Says This Is Purpose of Goulds, But President White Doubts if Line Will Be Built—Sharp Talk at Final Hearing.

After a session lasting over three hours, and in the presence of an enthusiastic audience which crowded the floor and gallery of the Senate chamber and vigorously applauded every point brought out by either side, the hearing of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac repeal act was concluded last night.

The railroad officials sprung a surprise on their opponents by having present a number of prominent men from Fredericksburg, who testified in rebuttal of Judge Embrey's speech of Thursday night, charging the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac with having retarded the progress of the city. From this side the gentlemen said Fredericksburg is not so great as Judge Embrey painted it, and its progress has not been hampered by the determination of the railroad company.

As to Fredericksburg.
In opening the case for the State and the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac, Mr. White, president of the road, asked that the delegation from Fredericksburg be heard.

Mr. W. H. Richards, Jr., who for twenty-one years has been employed by the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad, commonly known as the "narrow gauge," running from Fredericksburg to Orange, was the first to appear. He answered questions put to him by Mr. White, who read extracts from Judge Embrey's speech made Thursday night, and who asked for the verification of some statements made by that gentleman as facts.

Judge Embrey had said that ten years ago Mr. Duke, a capitalist, came to Fredericksburg, and acquired the rights of the water power.

"Did he give up his rights because he could not get manufacturing industries to come to Fredericksburg on account of railroad facilities?" asked Mr. White.

Replying, Mr. Richards declared he could not say that this was not true, but he was interested in this matter at the time, and did not think railroad facilities entered into the question, but believed Mr. Duke became discouraged on account of certain provisions in his franchise. Mr. Richards did not think that the railroad company had in any way retarded the growth of Fredericksburg, and he felt he was as competent to judge in this matter as was Judge Embrey.

Facilities Good.
In answer to a question of Judge Embrey if his road had never been hampered by the inability of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac to furnish cars in which to transfer freight at Fredericksburg, to any reasonable extent, Mr. Richards went on to say that Mr. Duke had never mentioned to him that his reasons for giving up the water power was on account of inadequate railroad facilities.

Mr. C. C. Cox, who for a number of years has been agent for the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac at Fredericksburg, followed Mr. Richards, and said that he believed Mr. Duke had been driven away by unfavorable reports from the engineers whom he had employed to investigate the matter, and the railroad question had nothing to do with his leaving. Besides, he said, the City Council had refused to grant Mr. Duke a franchise to run a street railway line, which he had applied for.

"The station at Fredericksburg," said Mr. Cox in answer to a question of Mr. Monro, "is as good as any in the State for a town of its size, and the road contemplates making improvements in both its freight and passenger station at that place."

In answer to questions put to him by Mr. Butzner, Mr. Cox said he believed both the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac and the M. O. V. had raised their rates in recent years.

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years, but this was due to the general advance in rates all over the country.

Judge Holladay Speaks.
After undergoing a cross-examination by members of the committee and others, Mr. Cox retired, and was followed by Judge Holladay, one of the State proxies of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac, who showed the good work done by the road, especially in Richmond, where twenty-five sidetracks have been built in recent years. He declared that the rates between here and Ashland are cheaper than any in the country, where the facilities are not even nearly as good. There are seventeen miles between here and Ashland, he said, and the relative rates beyond Ashland are approximately the same as those enjoyed by the people this side of the town. He had visited Fredericksburg with the State's proxies, said Judge Holladay, and notwithstanding Judge Embrey's derogatory remarks, he was surprised at the number of residences, the many mills and factories, and the ease with which the noble old city is riding abreast of the times, being, possibly, ahead of any community of its population in the State.

Gentlemen of the jury, said Judge Holladay, creating a general laugh, "let the good people of Fredericksburg tell us their grievances, and we will do our best to grant them what they want. We have now eighteen through trains a day between here and Fredericksburg, and if this is not good service, I do not know what could be considered as such."

Senator Lassiter interrupted Judge Holladay, saying that there had been some complaint by reason of the fact that the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac had never built any lateral line in the city, and he asked by saying that the road had been very busy by reason of double-tracking, but had built one mile of branch track at Penola recently. He showed where vast amounts had been expended in improvements by the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Company, \$3,500,000 having been used since 1893 in double-tracking and adding to the rolling stock.

The committee gave Judge Holladay the closest attention, and that it created a very favorable impression in the audience, the prolonged applause at the conclusion.

Represents Goulds.
Mr. Henry W. Anderson in closing the case for the repeal was the only one to speak for that side last night. He regretted, he said, that he was not in the position that every other gentleman who had addressed this committee occupied, in representing only the State, but he had no excuse for occupying a moment other than as a representative of a corporation or an individual who was one of the largest investors in the State. He continued by saying that he did not wish to manufacture sentiment, but would call attention to the fact that the Goulds had in fact been as much philanthropists as investors. Here he spoke of the good work which has been done, and is still being done by Miss Helen Gould in this State, and especially in this section.

The work of building the road to Ashland has been a serious question, and has been done under the greatest difficulty and at the greatest expense. Mr. Anderson said, and he explained that the pushing of the survey beyond Ashland had been abandoned only when financial stringency compelled the owners to disband the corps of engineers organized for that purpose. He then showed that Mr. Gould had spent \$800,000 in building the road to Ashland and \$200,000 in building land adjacent to Fredericksburg.

At this point Senator Lassiter interrupted Mr. Anderson, and said that he would ask the committee to pass by the amendment offered Wednesday night prohibiting any line being built parallel to the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac until after 1913, as he considered the expenditure of \$1,000,000 an evidence of good faith.

Mr. Lassiter's announcement was greeted with loud and continued applause.

Mr. Anderson ended by making an earnest appeal for the consideration of the bill, saying that he was asking for Mr. Gould no special privilege, but only equal rights with any other citizen of the State. Mr. Anderson on conclusion, was enthusiastically applauded.

Some Sharp Talk.
Mr. White then asked the committee to indicate for the consideration of the bill, saying that he was asking for Mr. Gould no special privilege, but only equal rights with any other citizen of the State. Mr. Anderson on conclusion, was enthusiastically applauded.

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be a movement in opposition by the people.

"Who pays for the presence of these men from Fredericksburg here tonight?" asked Mr. White.

Judge Embrey replied that the city of Fredericksburg did, and Mr. E. A. Mills, as chairman of the Public Interest Committee of the Council of Fredericksburg, presented resolutions to the committee from the said City Council, requesting him to appropriate money to pay the expenses of the delegation to Richmond.

Then Mr. White wanted to know who had paid for the many other expenses such as the delegation from Newport News and out-of-town newspaper articles incident to this case.

Mr. Anderson replied that not one dollar of Mr. Gould's money had gone towards any of these expenses.

Mr. White also desired to know who paid for Judge Embrey's presence.

"I am paying my expenses out of my own pocket," responded the Judge. The White concluded by saying that he believed the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac would survive, but that it would not pass the State anything. Mr. Anderson then asked permission to close the argument for the repeal, and briefly replied to some of Mr. White's charges. He said that the State has suffered already to the amount of \$350,000, he said, "but I have been advised by a reliable source that the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac stock has been as low as it now is before this matter was brought up."

Concluding, he spoke of the advantages of another road to Washington, and was interrupted by Mr. White, who wanted to know if the interest he represented had ever applied for a charter to Washington. "No, but we will if this act is repealed," answered Mr. Anderson.

"But you won't promise to build a line to Washington," said Mr. White. "I will promise to build branch lines down the Rappahannock," said Mr. Anderson.

Driver Jackson Ill.
Driver Jackson, of the city ambulance corps, is suffering with a severe attack of congestion of the lungs, and will not be out for a week. Meanwhile, his place is being taken by Driver Ford, who is forced to do double duty, there being only two drivers on the ambulance.

HITCHCOCK DEFENDS BRYAN

Tells House Parker Was Reactionary, and Led Forces Toward Rear.

WASHINGTON, January 24.—Although the urgent deficiency bill was technically up for consideration in the House of Representatives to-day, not a word pertinent to the bill was spoken. Under the privilege of general debate several members addressed the House on a variety of subjects, but the one which attracted most attention was a criticism by Mr. Hitchcock, of Nebraska, of certain statistics of General Charles H. Grosvenor, of Ohio, regarding the political outlook. The debate brought to their feet numerous Democrats who sprang to the defense of Bryan, while General Keifer, of Ohio, supported by several other Republicans, undertook to refute all the arguments concerning Mr. Bryan's two campaigns.

When the House resumed the consideration of the urgent deficiency bill Tuesday, Mr. Clark, of Florida, was recognized, and a vote for an hour and a half in support of a bill introduced by him, providing for the refund to the proper persons of the cotton tax illegally collected in the years 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897 and 1898.

In a question, Mr. Gronna, of North Dakota, urged as one of the remedies for financial stringencies the guaranteeing by the government of deposits in national banks and a requirement that the banks should keep at least 50 per cent. of the reserves at home.

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